

Mrs. B. P. Hall gave a short account, and some slides, of an expedition in the south-western Kalahari which she had undertaken with Mr. Smithers. The object of this expedition had been to collect and study the birds in the areas round Tsabong, Tsane, Lehututu, Kukong and Kafia where little or no ornithological work had been done previously.

Mr. Edwin Cohen followed with a description of the excursion to the Wankie Game Reserve, which was illustrated in turn by Mr. H. H. Davis with colour slides of both Wankie and of the Zambesi valley round Victoria Falls. These slides showed admirably the types of habitat found, and included some shots of guinea fowl and other birds typical of the Reserve.

Mr. R. E. Moreau showed some different habitat types with slides of the Luangwa valley. He commented in particular on the poverty of passerines in the dry season in the mopane woodland, and also on the fact that, in groves of evergreen forest along the valley some species such as Paradise Fly-catchers, normally local migrants, appear to be resident. Slides included some of typical water-birds and a colony of Wood Ibis ; he finished with views of Nyasaland emphasizing the isolation and consequent zoogeographical interest of such areas as the Zomba plateau.

The final speakers were Miss C. M. Acland and Miss V. Maxse who gave an account and short film of the post-congress excursion to the Lochinvar Ranch and the new Kafue National Park. The film gave some excellent views of the vast marsh of the Kafue flood plains with the herds of Red Lechwe and a profusion of water birds.

## A New Honey-guide from the Kivu District, Belgian Congo

by DR. JAMES P. CHAPIN

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It was long believed that the smallest species of the genus *Indicator* was *I. exilis* (Cassin), of which the nominate race has wings only 65–79 mm. long, the tail 39–51 mm., and the culmen from base 8–10 mm. Within the past year we have been surprised to find that together with *Indicator exilis* in the highlands west of Lake Kivu there dwells another species of the genus, still smaller, differing in coloration, and with the beak markedly smaller. This dwarf honey-guide appears never to have been described, and for it I propose the name

*Indicator pumilio*, new species

*Description:* Rather similar to *I. exilis* in general coloration and similarly streaked on back, rump, and wing-coverts with fuscous and sulphine yellow, the remiges mostly with outer edgings of sulphine yellow. The inner edgings of the remiges are similarly light gray, but slightly more tinged with yellow ; the tail pattern virtually as in *exilis*. Adults of *pumilio* have the same white line running from the anterior lores to the vicinity of the nostrils, but do not show any blackish malar stripe such as is present in adults of both sexes of *exilis*. Sides of the head are greenish gray, and the crown more washed with green than in *exilis*, with half-hidden dusky striping. The chin of *pumilio* is yellowish white, washed or spotted with greenish gray; its underparts are somewhat deeper in colour than those of *exilis*, more washed with green on a gray ground, the breast and flanks showing

diffuse dusky striping which is no more than suggested in some specimens of *exilis*. Lower belly yellowish white, and under tail-coverts gray with edgings of whitish. Tibial feathering with stripes of fuscous or blackish, edges yellowish white.

The average dimensions of *I. pumilio* are smaller than those of *I. exilis exilis*. Five adult males of *pumilio* have wings 71–76 mm., tails 45–50 mm., culmen to base 8.5–9 mm. Six adult females have wings 64–67 mm., tails 41–44 mm., culmen to base 7.3–8 mm.

These figures may not seem to differ markedly from the dimensions of *I. exilis exilis*; but males of that species from the southwest side of Lake Kivu have wings 76–85 mm., tail 46.5–60 mm., culmen to base 9.2–10.5 mm. Females from the same area have wings 68–76 mm., tail 42–45.5 mm., culmen 9–10 mm. Such a population may be referable to the race *I. exilis pachyrhynchus*.

The difference in weights is much more diagnostic. Seven examples of *pumilio* from southwest of Lake Kivu weighed from 12 to 15 grams, whereas fifteen of *exilis* from the same vicinity weighed 14.5 to 22 grams. In each group males were usually the heavier, but the weight of individuals varies considerably with the amount of beeswax contained in the stomach. Whether viewed from above or from the side, the beaks of *pumilio* are always distinctly smaller than those of *exilis*.

*Type*: American Museum of Natural History, No. 648641, from Tshibati, altitude 6400 ft., lat. 2° 14' S., long. 28° 47' E., on the southwest side of Lake Kivu, Belgian Congo. Adult male, collected 11th May, 1957, by James P. and Ruth T. Chapin. Tshibati is a zoological station of the Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale, situated above the central headquarters at Lwiro.

Range of *Indicator pumilio*: from the mountains just west of Lake Kivu southward at least to the highland of Itombwe, northwest of Lake Tanganyika, where on 30th June, 1908, Rudolf Grauer collected an adult male for the Rothschild Museum, and where Dr. Alexandre Prigogine has recently secured three more examples. Two of these Dr. Prigogine kindly lent us for comparison. Grauer's specimen was misidentified as *I. exilis*, and doubtless regarded as a young individual, although its tail pattern is that of an adult. It is now in the American Museum of Natural History.

At Tshibati we have collected juveniles of both *pumilio* and *exilis*, easily recognized by their more pointed outer rectrices with more v-shaped blackish tips. Those of *pumilio* differ by their more greenish underparts and brighter yellow edgings on upper side, also by their smaller dimensions, particularly those of the beak.

The very small beak of *Indicator pumilio* caused me to think at first that it might be conspecific with *I. meliphilus* (Oberholser), another rather small species, with wings 70–82 mm., tail 41–52 mm., culmen to base 7–9.2 mm. For the most part *I. meliphilus* inhabits less rainy regions than *I. exilis*. But the difference in coloration is so great, *meliphilus* being far lighter gray below, less streaked above, that I have been persuaded to name the new Kivu bird binominally. I still feel that its small beak may well indicate relationship with *meliphilus*. The latter is not a mere race of *I. exilis*. The ranges of *exilis* and *meliphilus* certainly overlap in the Mwini-lunga District of Northern Rhodesia, and probably also in Angola, the Upper Katanga, and western Keyna Colony.

Near Tshibati in the Kivu the species *pumilio* and *exilis* differ little if at all in behaviour. Both came to the very same pieces of empty waxcomb that we laid out to attract them, often near native beehives, within a hundred yards of our house. Both seemed equally silent at such times. We found it difficult to distinguish them in life with a field glass, for the young of *exilis* also lack the dusky malar stripe.

I wish here to express my gratitude to Dr. Alexandre Prigogine, Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Mr. R. E. Moreau, Mr. R. H. N. Smithers, Dr. Dean Amadon, and Dr. H. Schouteden for their help and advice and for the loan of certain specimens needed for comparison.

## Further Population Studies of the Yellow Wagtail

by DR. ANDREW KEVE

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Recently many studies have been made on the populations of the Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava* Linnaeus, by Harrison (1945), Johansen (1946 & 1952), Drost (1948), Mayaud (1949 & 1953), Smith (1950), Grant & Mackworth-Praed (1952), Gladkow (1954), Williamson (1955), Schwartz (1956), Sammalisto (1956), etc. These studies have gradually disclosed the evolutionary problems connected with this species and provide one of the best examples of the complicated problems of a species-group which has been over-split and in which there are many intermediate forms.

I have investigated the Central European and Balkan populations of the Yellow Wagtail several times (1935, '36, '38, '39) and note that my results agree with those of others. My research, undertaken with E. Greschik, is based upon 728 specimens.

The population of the Carpathian Basin is of special interest to us, where the breeding race is *M. f. flava* Linnaeus. But the individual variation is wide and we were able to divide our 116 males into three groups. The first has very light ear-coverts, which are typical of the Hungarian population (31.1%). This group also have bills which become more slender from nostril to tip. This light phase, which is perhaps a steppe character, does not appear subspecific, because we have found comparable specimens from Scandinavia, Germany and Austria. Amongst these skins were some identified as *M. f. beema*, but we were fortunately able to show that they were pale variants of *M. f. flava*, in some cases with abnormal moult of the tail or with a tail shortened by faulty technique in preparing the specimen. The main bulk of the Hungarian population does not differ from Scandinavian material (44.8%). The minority (18.1%) have dark ear-coverts and are like *M. f. dombrowskii*. Fourteen specimens — supplementary to the main material — were identified as *M. f. flava*  $\geq$  *dombrowskii*. These were collected in Transylvania, Banat, Batshka and in the vicinity of the Danube, not far north from 46°21'.

There were 21 skins of *M. f. dombrowskii* Tschusi from Hungary, a fact which proves that this race is regular on migration — probably Polish birds, but I did not see any Polish material. I even have specimens collected south of Banat in May and June. These are either late migrants or infiltrating breeders from the Roumanian plain, following the course of the Danube (*vide* Schwarz, The Relation of the Yellow Wagtail